

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR

ESTABLISHED IN 1840



Photo by McRae, Rochester, N. Y.

The Hill Cumorah Monument

Commemorates The Origin Of The World's Strangest Book.

(See articles pages 594, 600 and 602)

"AND THE EYES OF THE BLIND SHALL SEE"

By ELDER GEORGE ALBERT SMITH

OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES

IN recent months the Book of Mormon has been printed in Braille for the use of the blind. It consists of seven volumes, each 12 inches long, 12 inches wide and about two inches thick, nicely bound in green cloth and embossed in gold. A set will be presented to various libraries, making it available to many of the blind just as is the Holy Bible. It was printed by the American Printing House for the Blind, at Louisville, Kentucky, the same concern that prints Bibles for the American Bible Society. It was proof-read by a scholarly blind man, one of the two best Braille proof-readers in the United States, who was also employed to proof-read the Bible.



George Albert Smith

"More than a million copies have been distributed among the nations. . . ."

The Book of Mormon is a sacred record containing information that is found in no other book. The Lord has commanded us to divide with all His children the truths of the everlasting Gospel that have been revealed to prepare them for a place in the Celestial kingdom. In the year 1827 Joseph Smith was living at Palmyra in New York State and it was at the Hill Cumorah, not far from his home that an angel delivered into his custody a volume of plates having the appearance of gold. He was directed to translate their contents into English, which he did by the gift and power of God. It caused quite a commotion in the community when it was reported that Joseph had received

some golden records and had them in his possession. Attempts were made to take them from him. He and his father's family were harassed because of the report that they had something valuable in their possession. The Lord had informed Joseph before he was 15 years of age that a great mission was to be given to him if he would live a righteous life. Later it became part of his duty to translate and publish to the world the Book of Mormon. When the people of the neighbourhood learned that he was contracting with a local printer to publish the book they did everything possible to discourage it. They declared that the work was a fraud and determined to prevent its publication, and in order that the venture might be a financial failure they tried to make the distribution impossible by agreeing that they would not read the book.

Notwithstanding the threats that were made, Joseph placed the manuscript containing this prophecy in the hands of the printer for publication (2 Nephi 30 : 3):

And now, I would prophesy somewhat more concerning the Jews and

the Gentiles. For after the book of which I have spoken shall come forth, and be written unto the Gentiles, and sealed up again unto the Lord, there shall be many which shall believe the words which are written; and they shall carry them forth unto the remnant of our seed.

And then shall the remnant of our seed know concerning us, how that we came out from Jerusalem, and that they are descendants of the Jews.

And the Gospel of Jesus Christ shall be declared among them; wherefore, they shall be restored unto the knowledge of their fathers, and also to the knowledge of Jesus Christ, which was had among their fathers.

In Another Language

SEPTEMBER is a month of special significance to the Latter-day Saint Church. It was September 22, 1827—109 years ago—that the gold plates from which the Book of Mormon was translated were delivered to the Prophet Joseph Smith by the Angel Moroni.

Member of the Council of the Twelve Apostles since 1903, Elder George Albert Smith has been a moving power in the translation and publication of the Book of Mormon into other tongues. In this article he tells the interesting story of how the Book has been produced in yet another language—that of the blind, thus fulfilling a prophecy found in 2 Nephi 27: 29, which says: “And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness.”

The cover picture shows the Hill Cumorah Monument, striking in its stately beauty atop the Hill where the Prophet received the plates.

It is interesting to note that notwithstanding the animosity of the people and the threat not to purchase the book it did not deter the youthful prophet from publishing the prediction that had been made by Nephi, “There shall be many which shall believe the words which are written.” Let us see if that promise of the Lord has been fulfilled.

The Book of Mormon was first published in English in 1830; in Danish in 1851; in Welsh in 1852; in German 1852; in French in 1852; in Italian in 1852; in Hawaiian in 1855; in the Deseret alphabet in 1869; in Swedish in 1878; in Spanish in 1886; in Maori in 1889; in Dutch in 1890; in Samoan in 1903; in Tahitian in 1904; in Turkish in 1906; in Japanese in 1909; in Czecho-Slovakian in 1933 and in Braille in 1936.

Now that the Book of Mormon has been published in Braille it is interesting to note that in 2 Nephi 27: 29 the following occurs: “And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness.”

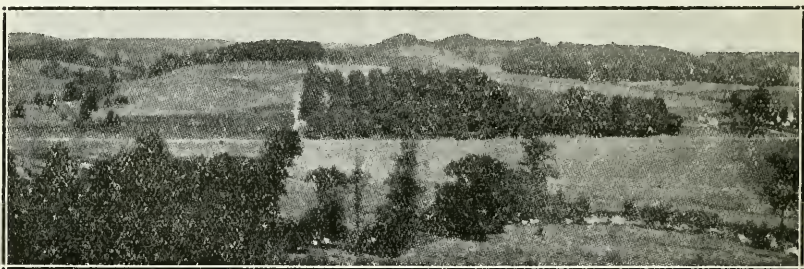
In addition to the 18 languages in which the Book of Mormon has already been printed it has also been translated and prepared for publication in Hindustanee, Greek, Hebrew, Bulgarian, Russian and Armenian.

About eighty years after the Book of Mormon was published I went to Palmyra to purchase the old home of Joseph Smith where a part of the Book of Mormon was translated. I made an investigation and found that the people of that section had fulfilled their promise. I did not find one soul who had ever read the Book of Mormon. The only copy that I found among them was the printer's copy that had never been cut, and it was held as a

curiosity by the banker there, Honourable Pliney T. Sexton, who was a very good friend of ours.

Think of the problem that presented itself to Joseph Smith. Money was being expended—borrowed money—in order that the book might be published. Martin Harris had mortgaged his farm to secure the necessary funds. It required faith of a high order to continue under such circumstances. The first edition of five thousand was eventually delivered and paid for and considerably more than a million copies have since been distributed among the nations of the earth. The demand for it increases as the days go by, and it fills my heart with joy to know that every man who will read it prayerfully, every man who will desire to know whether it be of God or not has the promise, not of Joseph Smith or any living human being, but the promise of our Heavenly Father that they shall know of a surety that it is of God (Moroni 10: 3, 4, 5):

Behold, I would exhort you that when ye shall read these things, if it be wisdom in God that ye should read them, that ye would remember



The Martin Harris Farm in Western New York State

It was mortgaged to finance publication of the first copies of the Book of Mormon.

how merciful the Lord hath been unto the children of men, from the creation of Adam even down until the time that ye shall receive these things, and ponder it in your hearts.

And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost.

And by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things.

It is surely pleasing to have this other volume of scripture prepared for the use of the blind to read as a companion to the Bible that for many years has been printed for them in Braille. These two books hand in hand teach us all where we came from, why we are here, where we may go, and they both contain the loving advice of our Heavenly Father intended to inspire us to do that which will enrich our lives here and prepare us for eternal happiness.

It is a privilege to live in this day and age of the world. It is marvellous to be associated with the people who have more than seventeen hundred missionaries in the world today, offering without money and without price the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those who need it but do not understand it. No other people in this

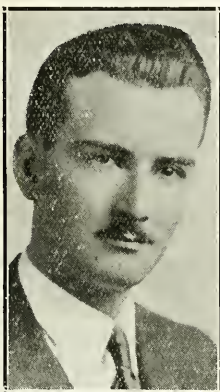
(Continued on page 598)

SCOUTING IN THE MORMON CHURCH

By Dr. E. DeAlton Partridge

IF one were to take a map of the United States, as I have done recently, and shade the various states of the Union according to the percentage of boys who are Scouts in these states, the state with the heaviest shading would be found in the Rocky Mountains. This state is Utah. In the population of this commonwealth is found a higher percentage of boys as Scouts than in any other state in the United States of America. The chances are that, if accurate data were available, the proportion of Scouts

From the National Office



Dr. E. DeAlton Partridge

Says Utah is shaded
heaviest.

HERE is an article especially prepared for the *Millennial Star* by Dr. E. DeAlton Partridge, National Director of Research, Boy Scouts of America. Dr. Partridge gives in this brief treatment conclusions that have been drawn by one who has observed the Church and its youth programme not only as a Latter-day Saint but from the vantage point of the national office. He cites some of Mormonism's noteworthy contributions to this far-reaching boys' organization which was founded in Britain in 1908 by Lord Baden Powell of Gilwell.

A native of Provo, Utah, where he graduated from Brigham Young University, Dr. Partridge has written several articles for *Scouting*, official magazine of Boy Scouts of America, and is author of *Leadership Among Adolescent Boys*, a book distributed by national headquarters. He recently accompanied Camp Chief J. S. Wilson of Britain's Boy Scout Training School at Gilwell on a tour of troops in America (*Star*, July 2).

in this area would equal any in the world of similar size and population. Upwards of 85 per cent of the boys in the State of Utah will have been Scouts sometime during their lives.

There are various reasons why the State of Utah stands out in this respect, the most important of which is the fact that the Mormon Church embraced the Scout Movement early (Scouting was first officially endorsed by the Church in 1913), and has woven it into the pattern of its activities in such a manner that it becomes a natural and expected part of a boy's life for him to be a Scout and carry on the Scout activities.

While the Mormon Church was the first major church to officially adopt the Scout Programme as a training for its young men, other large denominations in the country have followed suit, until now nearly all of the major groups have adopted Scouting in this manner.

The organization of the Mormon Church is peculiarly effective in using the Scout Programme, for various reasons. To my mind,

the most important reason has to do with the use of volunteers in carrying forth the Church leadership. It is a fundamental tenet of the Mormon religion that every member should carry some responsibility for the Church. This, of course, has a tendency to make every member interested and active in carrying forth the work of the Church. The fact that Scouting is an official part of the programme therefore unifies it with the rest of the Church programme, and insures not only stable institutional sponsorship but a continued line of leadership in the way of volunteers to direct the boys. A Scout troop in the average Mormon ward or branch is not an organization that comes and goes by day or night. Once it is implanted into the system, it is the responsibility of the local Church leadership to see that it carries on. The amount of material available for leadership capacity is great, due to the fact that the young people in the Mormon Church receive an unusual training in the carrying of responsibility.

A MEMBER of the faculty of Teachers' College, Columbia University, told me just recently that, in his opinion, the Mormon Church was the most effective training for leadership and responsibility that had ever come to his attention, due to the fact that early in life young people are given responsibility in the Church, and as their experience and capacity warrant it they are progressed from one stage to another, so that they can practise the actual carrying of responsibility.

The Mormon Church has been effective in pioneering during the new developments of the Scouting Programme, notably Scouting for older youths. For several years, the Vanguard Programme has been carried on by the L. D. S. Church. A great deal of this programme and experience recently has been adapted for the older Scout Programme for the whole United States. The L. D. S. Church was also instrumental in carrying out its own programme for younger boys from nine to twelve years of age, known as the Trail Builders in the Primary, which was developed many years before the new programme of the Boy Scouts of America known as Cubs.

There is every reason to suspect that Scouting in the Mormon Church will continue to carry on with as much, or more, effectiveness as it does at the present time. It has been made a very definite part of the whole Church programme, not simply an additional activity to be promoted when, and if, possible.

"AND THE EYES OF THE BLIND SHALL SEE"

(Concluded from page 596)

world are making such an effort to share with the children of men the glorious truths of our Heavenly Father for the uplift of mankind and for the preparation of those who desire to dwell upon this earth when it shall be the Celestial kingdom of our Lord.—(Adapted from a sermon delivered at the 106th annual conference of the Church in the Salt Lake Tabernacle).

A CONTEMPLATION of God's works, a generous concern for the good of mankind and the unfeigned exercise of humility—these, only, denominate men great and glorious.—ADDISON.



The Salt Lake Tabernacle

There a nation's leaders paid last respects.

A NATIONAL FUNERAL IN THE TABERNACLE

THE great Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City was the scene of a national tribute to a departed statesman Tuesday, September 1, when funeral services were conducted there for George H. Dern, United States Secretary of War. Governor of Utah for eight years (1925-32), Mr. Dern had been a member of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's cabinet since 1933. His position made him the fourth ranking official of the United States.

President Roosevelt led a group of high-ranking government officials who came to Salt Lake City to attend the Tabernacle services. Others included Daniel C. Roper, Secretary of Commerce; Homer S. Cummings, Attorney General; Henry H. Woodring, acting Secretary of War; Admiral William H. Standley, acting Secretary of the Navy; Edwin F. McGrady, acting Secretary of Labour, and Major-General Malin Craig, Chief of Staff, United States Army.



Secretary Dern

Passes on.

The Tabernacle Choir, under the direction of Elder J. Spencer Cornwall, rendered two of the late secretary's favourite hymns, *Crossing the Bar*, and *Lead Kindly Light*. Irene Kelly Williams, noted Utah soprano, sang *I Know That My Redeemer Liveth*, from Handel's *Messiah*. Music on the Tabernacle Organ was played by Elder Frank W. Asper, Tabernacle organist.

Full military honours were paid to its departed chief by the United States Army. An honour guard accompanied the funeral train from Washington, D.C., where Secretary Dern died August 27, to Salt Lake City. Cannon in every American army post boomed out salutes every half hour from dawn to dusk.

Included on a special committee appointed by Elder Henry H. Blood, Governor of Utah, to arrange for the War Secretary's funeral was Elder Stephen L. Richards of the Council of the Twelve Apostles.

After arrival from Washington, the body lay in state at the Utah State Capitol building prior to the Tabernacle services. Burial was in Mount Olivet Cemetery near Salt Lake City.

Secretary Dern was born in Nebraska, September 8, 1873, and went to Utah as a young man. He was a leader in the development of Utah's mining industry throughout his career and was elected governor of the State in 1924. Although not a Latter-day Saint, he was a loyal friend of the Mormon people. In a recent radio address, broadcast over the entire United States, he said, "As a non-Mormon citizen of Utah, I am happy to say that the Mormon people are kindly, honest, warm-hearted, industrious, thrifty and progressive."—PARRY D. SORENSON.

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1936

EDITORIAL

A SIGNIFICANT ANALOGY

THE month of September is notable in Mormon history, for it is associated with a wonderful book that has been a challenge to the world for more than a hundred years. Some have dismissed the book with ridicule, some have attempted to explain it and others have refused to consider it. But the Book of Mormon, which has survived ridicule and the explanation of unfriendly critics, refuses to be neglected. It is a phenomenon that demands attention and will receive it more and more with the passing of the years. Truth always lives on, even though it be neglected or reviled by its opponents, no matter how powerful.

It was in September, 1827, as many of our readers know, that the Angel Moroni delivered into the hands of the youthful Joseph Smith on the Hill Cumorah in the western part of the State of New York a set of gold plates on which was inscribed in ancient characters the religious history of an extinct people who had lived in the Americas for more than 1,000 years. The writings on some of these plates were translated by Joseph "by the gift and power of God." This translation was printed in book form, coming from the press in March, 1830, and constituted a volume known as the Book of Mormon. This volume, accordingly, is the most wonderful book in print today. There is no other in the coming forth of which God and His angels have been so directly active. The Angel Moroni appeared to Joseph several times in the interests of this book and the work the Prophet was called to do. In this connection we refer our readers to the testimony of the three and of the eight witnesses, respectively, as printed in the introduction to the Book of Mormon.

Now the scoffer has said that angels and revelations from God are things of the past—hence the Book of Mormon is a fraud. But what proof can he offer to support his assertion that the Heavens, once open, are now closed to man? Both the Old and the New Testament record many miraculous manifestations of the power of the Heavens to man. That the Heavens were to be closed to man after the mortal days of Jesus and His Apostles is *wholly assumption*, the Bible clearly indicating otherwise. (See Daniel 2: Micah 44; 4: 1; Acts 3: 19-21; Revelation 14: 6, etc.)

Perhaps the most wonderful miracle in human history is the resurrection of Jesus—the reuniting of His spirit with His dead physical body and the accompanying transformation into an immortal, glorified Being, the Redeemer of the human family, a God who reigns with His Father in heaven. When the disciples saw their Master die in agony on the cross they were wholly disheart-

ened and felt that all was lost. It was His resurrection that changed them from fearful, scattering despondents into bold, enthusiastic proselyters, ready to face death in any form for their testimony of Him. Hence, in a sense, it is to an exceedingly wonderful miracle that we are indebted for the New Testament and Christianity. Had there been no resurrection we would have had neither.

The Bible is full of instances in which to accomplish His purposes God miraculously manifested Himself. Can any believer in the Bible deny the miracles of that Book? Certainly not. Is it reasonable for any such believer to shut up the Heavens in modern times and deny man the privilege of receiving miraculous manifestations from above? We think not.

But however this may be with men it is certainly true that God has again miraculously set up His Church on earth in modern times. And perhaps the most outstanding physical evidence of this is the Book of Mormon. In an analogous way, then, this book is to God's Church in these days as the Resurrection was to the Church of Christ in former days—evidence that the world, if it would searchingly examine, could hardly controvert. From the standpoint of human testimony the resurrection of Jesus is among the best attested facts of ancient history, so able and learned scholars declare. Similarly there is a mass of incontrovertible human testimony supporting the divinity of the Book of Mormon.

The Book of Mormon gives powerful evidence of Divine inspiration in the Bible. The former is not a new bible but it is a divine witness for the Christian Bible. Every sincere Latter-day Saint accepts the divine authenticity of the Book of Mormon; hence he accepts the Bible as divinely inspired scripture. Of course, the Bible could be true and the Book of Mormon false, but the reverse is not possible. The Book of Mormon freely quotes from the Bible; a divinely authentic book could not recognize as true a false one.

We invite our readers to give the Book of Mormon and the history of its coming into modern print a careful examination. Then read the Book in the way it recommends. (See Moroni 10: 4). Having done this we are confident you will at least agree that it is a remarkable book well worth the attentive reading of any honest person. Further, you will discover that the doctrines taught by the Book are in entire harmony with those taught by the Master, Jesus Christ, even greatly illuminating many obscure biblical passages. You may even discover that you are in contact with the outstanding marvel of the age.—JOSEPH F. MERRILL.

BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT CONFERENCE NOTICE

BIRMINGHAM District Conference will convene Sunday, September 20, in Stratford Road Council School, Sparkbrook, Birmingham. Sessions will be held at 10 and 11 a.m. and 2:30 and 6:30 p.m. President Richard R. Lyman, new European Mission president, and President Joseph J. Cannon will be the principal speakers. An illustrated lecture, "Temples of God," will be given in Handsworth Branch Chapel, 23 Booth Street, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, September 19.

Sessions of Manchester District Conference will be held in Co-operative Hall, Downing Street, Manchester at 10 and 11 a.m., and 2:30 and 6:30 p.m. Sunday, September 27. The illustrated lecture, "Temples of God," will be presented Saturday, September 26, at 7:30 p.m. in Manchester Branch Chapel, 88 Clarendon Road, C-on-M., Manchester.

THIS WEEK IN MORMON HISTORY

The Story Of The Origin Of The World's Strangest Book

OF all the features of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, none is more distinctive than its contribution to the world of the Book of Mormon. September 22 marks the 109th anniversary of the coming forth of the records from which this strange volume was translated. This book, which now sells 50,000 copies each year in 17 different languages, indeed has a unique and wondrous story surrounding its origin. Only an abbreviated account is enough to convince one of this fact. The story, in brief, follows:

Three years after the Prophet Joseph Smith witnessed that first glorious theophany, in which he beheld God, the Father, and His Son, Jesus Christ, the unlearned farmer boy received another manifestation from the heavens. This vision came to him in the same vicinity as did the first—in western New York State, though the first one was received in a grove, whereas Joseph's bedroom was the setting of the second. The Prophet, at the time, was 17 years of age and the year was 1823. Before retiring to his bed in the Smith log dwelling on the night of September 21, the lad knelt in fervent prayer. While he was yet in supplication, his room became filled with light, and in the midst of it a resurrected, heavenly personage, whose "countenance was truly like lightning," appeared and called the boy by name. The heavenly herald announced himself as Moroni. Clothed in "a loose robe of exquisite whiteness," he told Joseph that he (Moroni) had been sent as a messenger from God, and that the Lord had a great work for the youth to perform. Moroni informed him that deposited in a nearby hill were some records on gold plates, containing an abridged history of former inhabitants of the American continents, that the records also contained the fulness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as taught by the Saviour to these ancient people of the Western Hemisphere. After quoting considerable Scripture to the lad, Moroni disappeared. (In subsequent revelations, the Prophet learned that Moroni was the last of a long line of prophets whose translated writings comprise the Book of Mormon; it was this same Moroni who, in mortality, had closed the ancient records and deposited them about 421 A. D. in the earth where they had been preserved through the centuries.)

While the Prophet was yet reflecting on this heavenly incident, the Angel again appeared, rehearsed his previous instructions and departed. This was repeated a third time during the same night.

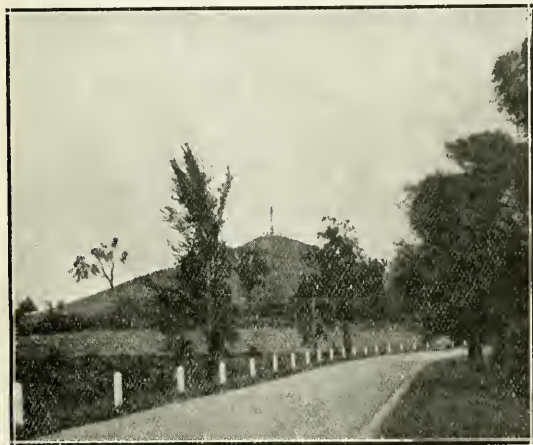
In the harvesting field the following day, Joseph was overcome while attempting to climb over a fence. Regaining consciousness, he beheld the presence of the same heavenly messenger who had visited him the previous night. Moroni again repeated his message, impressing the lad with the import of the mission before him and warning him against future temptations.

On the same day the Prophet visited the hill described by Moroni

as the place where the plates were deposited. The hill, about four miles south of the town of Palmyra, New York and about two miles distant from the Smith home, is known as Cumorah (see cut). On the precise spot on the hill designated by Moroni, Joseph found a large stone, and under it a box, also of stone. Raising the lid by means of a lever, he beheld within the box the plates, along with two stones in silver bows, fastened to a breastplate. The Angel had told the Prophet that these instruments composed

the Urim and Thummim, possession of which constituted "seers" in ancient times, and that God had provided them for the purpose of translating the book.

As the lad was about to remove the contents of the box, Moroni again appeared before him, forbidding him to take the sacred treasures at that time. He told Joseph that four years must transpire before the records would be committed to his personal custody.



The Hill Cumorah

Out of it, came the record of an ancient civilization.

Meanwhile, he explained, Joseph would be required to visit the place at yearly intervals. This the Prophet did, on each occasion receiving additional instructions from Moroni regarding the records and their purpose.

On September 22, 1827 the Angel delivered the gold plates to the youthful revelator. They were about eight inches in length and seven inches in width. They were fastened together with three rings and formed a volume about six inches thick. Each plate was a sheet somewhat thinner than ordinary tin, and was engraved with Reformed Egyptian characters on both sides.

Joseph proceeded with the work of translation. As he transcribed the words, he dictated them to an amanuensis who wrote them as they fell from his lips. Three secretaries at different times did this work. They were the Prophet's wife (Emma Hale Smith), Martin Harris, a fairly well-to-do farmer in the sector, and Oliver Cowdery, a school teacher. The translating was completed about July 1, 1829. The original copies, printed on the hand press of E. B. Grandin and Company of Palmyra, New York, were released for sale March 26, 1830—11 days before the Church was organized.

That is a cursory account of how the Book of Mormon came forth. For more than a century critics of the Church have attempted to disprove its claims, but without avail. They have projected various theories, but they do not reach an agreement. On the other hand, the number of believers in Mormonism has

constantly been on the increase. Nearly one million souls comprise the membership of the Church today. Numbered among this great host of people accepting the divine origin of the Book of Mormon are some of America's leading statesmen, eminent scientists in the various fields and practical business men and community leaders who are respected for their soundness, sincerity and integrity.

Evidence certifying the authenticity of the Book of Mormon is ever expanding. Here are but a few of the many supporting facts: Twelve persons, including the Prophet, solemnly testified (their testimonies appear on the flyleaf of the printed Book) that they saw and handled the gold plates from which the record was taken. None of them ever denied that affirmation, though some of them became estranged from the Church and bitter enemies of Joseph Smith. The Prophet, himself, gave his very life for his claims, and scores of others have suffered the pangs of death for their unflinching conviction of the divinity of Joseph Smith's mission. The actual translation of the 522-page volume occupied about ninety days (about April 7, 1829 to July 1, 1829). No work, especially one sprinkled with so many related dates as is the Book of Mormon, of this size and literary quality could have been produced by one human being in such a short period of time.

There are many other evidences. For a discussion of them, the reader is referred to a book, *Seven Claims of The Book of Mormon*, prepared recently in London by Dr. John A. Widtsoe and Franklin S. Harris Jr.

The Book of Mormon, which supplements and supports but does not supplant the Bible, is a marvellous book with a divine origin. It is worthy of the perusal of every sincere seeker of truth.

Other Anniversaries This Week

September 17, 1840—The Gospel message was first carried to the Isle of Man, by Elder John Taylor.

September 18, 1848—Birth at Carburnea, Iowa of President John Henry Smith of the First Presidency (1910-11).

September 19, 1811—Birth at Hartford, New York of Apostle Orson Pratt. He died October 3, 1881.

September 21, 1862—Birth at Hungerford, Berkshire of Apostle James E. Talmage. He passed away July 27, 1933.—WENDELL J. ASHTON.

NEWS OF THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD

Paddington Station in London was the scene of a welcoming reception Tuesday night, September 15, when Elder Richard R. Lyman of the Council of the Twelve Apostles, new European Mission president, and his wife, Sister Amy Brown Lyman, arrived to take over their duties. They landed at Plymouth Tuesday afternoon after sailing from New York on the s. s. *Manhattan*

Wednesday, September 9. President Joseph F. Merrill and Sister Emily T. Merrill, whom they succeed, will sail on the s. s. *Manhattan* when it makes its return voyage Thursday, September 24. Missions over which Elder Lyman will preside are the British, French, German-Austrian, Swiss-German, Norwegian, Danish, Swedish, Czechoslovakian, South African, Palestine-

Syrian and Netherlands. President Lyman is the third generation of European Mission presidents. His grandfather, Amasa M. Lyman presided over the Mission 1860-62, and his father, Francis M. Lyman occupied the position of European Mission president 1901-04. Sister Lyman, who is first counsellor in the Relief Society general presidency, will represent this organization in Europe. The new mission heads were honoured at a farewell testimonial in the Salt Lake City Twenty-seventh Ward Chapel Sunday, August 23. President David O. McKay, second counsellor in the First Presidency of the Church, and former president of the European Mission (1922-24), was principal speaker at the services.

South African travelling elders (22 of them) distributed approximately 1,000 copies of the Book of Mormon among non-members of the Church during the first six months of 1936, President LeGrande P. Backman reports. This figure indicates the interest people in that great commonwealth of the Empire are showing in this divine history

of God's dealings with the inhabitants of ancient North and South America.

Impressed by the construction of Salt Lake Tabernacle, John C. Austin, well-known architect and former president of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, told the Salt Lake Chamber in a talk recently that the structure stands today as a signal achievement in the field of engineering. Present-day construction of such a building would be an architectural achievement, he added. Work on the Mormon Tabernacle began in 1863 under the direction of President Brigham Young.

Delegates to the American Indian Federation's nation-wide conference paid a silent, standing tribute to President Brigham Young and the Mormon Pioneers on the opening day of their recent sessions in Salt Lake City's Chamber of Commerce. Elder Levi Edgar Young of the First Council of the Seventy welcomed the Red Indian delegates in behalf of the State of Utah, and Elder Charles A. Callis of the Council of the Twelve Apostles greeted them in behalf of the Church.

A LETTER ON THE BOOK OF MORMON

THIS week the Church commemorates the 109th anniversary of the coming forth of the Book of Mormon. Down through the years the Book of Mormon has attracted the reverent interest of many without the Church membership as well as those within. A letter recently received by President Joseph F. Merrill of the European Mission from a non-member in Queensland, Australia typifies this. Some excerpts read :

"Many thanks for your kind letter of March 4th. You would scarcely believe how intensely urgent I feel the necessity for the lively work of propaganda of the Book of Mormon in the world. The sophisticated world can do nothing with the Bible without the Book of Mormon, which you know is to run parallel, each completing the other and helping the other to gain of the world in understanding the righteous, spiritual law of God. . . I must say there are millions of people who know something vague of the Mormons, but nothing of the Book of Mormon. Generally what they fancy they know of the Mormons has nothing to do with Christianity. If believing the Book of Mormon makes one a Mormon, then I may count myself a Mormon, and I consider it perfect righteousness that Mormon, in view of his work, should have his name recognized in this age. . . In this great day of advertisement, would it not be well to advertise the Book of Mormon? . . .

"W. B. E. AVERY

"Toowoomba, Queensland."

OF CURRENT INTEREST

Speeding around Bonneville Salt Flats, near Salt Lake City, Monday, September 7, in his *Mormon Meteor* racing car, Ab Jenkins, Latter-day Saint sportsman, broke seven world's records previously held by



Ab Jenkins

Shatters Records.

Britain's Captain G. E. T. Eyston. Records broken by the Mormon driver include those over distances ranging from 500 kilometers to 2,000 kilometers. For the latter distance he averaged 157.05 miles per hour to 151.94 for Captain Eyston, who set his records slightly more than a month ago on the salt beds. It was these same beds where Sir Malcolm Campbell established the present land speed record of 301.337 miles per hour about one year ago. Jenkins is a strict observer of the Latter-day Saint Word of Wisdom and attributes his remarkable success and stamina to observance of it. Last spring he was adjudged "Salt

Lake City's First Citizen for 1935" and presented the Salt Lake Advertising Club Trophy (*Star*, May 7). On the back of Jenkins' car is a small sign which reads, "Yes, I'm a Mormon." Jenkins' records were bettered on the salt beds by John Cobb of London September 11-12, but the Salt Lake City driver has announced that he will attempt to regain them shortly.

An ancient Christian church, dating back to the fourth century, containing rare and beautiful Mosaics, was found recently by archaeologists on the summit of Mount Nebo, Palestine, according to a Universal Service dispatch of August 17. A Greek inscription containing the name of Moses was discovered in the Mosaic work. An altar in the church, of great antiquity, is said to cover the spot where Moses viewed the Promised Land, after leading the Children of Israel through the wilderness for forty years, following their deliverance from the bondage of King Pharaoh. Several other buildings of the early Palestinian Christian era were found by the expedition. Mosaic work was in evidence everywhere, even in the floors.

BRISTOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE

PRESIDENT JOSEPH J. CANNON was principal speaker at Bristol District Conference held Sunday, September 13 in Hannah More Hall, Clifton, Bristol.

At the evening services, attended by approximately 100 people, President Cannon explained the Latter-day Saint belief in the universal salvation of man, pointing out that through the atonement of Jesus Christ all may be saved, and that Church temple work provides for the salvation of the dead as well as for the living. Other speakers were Supervising Elder Douglas L. Anderson, who spoke on the necessity of baptism, and Elder Darrell L. Brady, whose subject was on the eternal truths of Christ's teachings. District President Herbert S. Millard conducted.

Afternoon session speakers included President Cannon, Brother

Ira W. Mount, assistant supervisor of genealogy in the British Mission, Elder Joseph H. Stout, Mission genealogy supervisor, and Elders Ferrel K. Walker, William R. Firmage and Parry D. Sorensen. The autumn conference theme—temple work—was the general topic of the speakers.

Brother Henry E. Neal, first counsellor in the district presidency conducted the morning session, at which President Millard gave the district report. Elders Anderson, Brady and J. Glenn Burdett also spoke.

A testimony meeting was also held in the morning. It was conducted by Brother Neal. More than half of those attending the evening services were non-members.

An illustrated lecture, "Temples of God," was presented in the hall Saturday evening.

FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Release—Elder Melvin M. Richards was honourably released to return to his Malad, Idaho home Saturday, September 12. He has laboured in the Nottingham, Manchester and Leeds districts (super-vising elder of the latter).

Appointments—Elder Angus I. Nicholson was transferred from the British Mission office Saturday, September 12, and appointed supervising elder of Leeds District.

Sister Dora Bargh was appointed British Mission secretary of genealogy Wednesday, September 2.

Transfer—Elder E. Leon Mather was transferred from Nottingham District to the British Mission office Saturday, September 5.

Doings in the Districts: Leeds—Batley Branch M. I. A. held its first annual Old Folks Party Saturday, August 22, in Earlsheaton Park. In the evening of the same day the Relief Society held a Pedlar's Fair in the Branch hall. Sister Nora Moss, Relief Society president, was in charge.

Old folks of Bradford Branch were honoured at a supper given by the M. I. A. Bouquets were presented to Sister Barbara E. Walker, 79, and Sister Emma Ackeroyd, 80, as the oldest members present.

More Than Players!

THREE Latter-day Saint baseball teams have participated during 1936 in competition sponsored by Britain's National Baseball Association. The teams are known as Bradford M Men, Rochdale M Men (or Greys) and Catford Saints (London). The Bradford team have been presented with Leeds Amateur League championship. Rochdale M Men won the North of England League title and Catford Saints were 1936 finalists in the national cup (in which 110 teams from all over England competed). In 1935 Rochdale M Men and the London Latter-day Saints were finalists in the national cup.

Latter-day Saint teams are known for more than championships, however. This is shown in an article appearing in London's *Daily Mirror* (1,100,000 circulation) for September 2. The article reads, in part:

"Rochdale Greys—champions of the North of England League—are a team of missionaries:

"Baseball fans know them as fine players and as sportsmen, but how many know that they are religious teachers?

"These boys are missionaries of the Church of the Latter-day Saints, in other words, Mormons.

"They have worked and played themselves right into the hearts of the people. Not one of the team is more than 23, and not one gets a cent remuneration or expenses."

ford Hartley was in charge of both occasions.

Activities of the Millennial Chorus in Preston have been drawing a number of favourable press reports during the past few weeks that the Chorus has been labouring there. Two clippings from the *Lancashire Daily Post*, one dated August 31 and the other September 4, tell of

Liverpool—President Joseph J. Cannon was the speaker at Preston Branch sacrament services Sunday, August 30. The Millennial Chorus was also present at the meeting. President Cannon spoke again at a street meeting held after the services.

Preston M. I. A. members paid a visit to Preston's Electricity Power Station Tuesday, September 1. They heard a lecture on "Russia Today" the following evening, given by Mr. J. Leeming.

Brother Clif-

concerts presented by the chorus at the Willows Convalescent Hospital, Ashton-on-Ribble, and at the Chestnuts Sanatorium. Another clipping, of about 400 words, tells of the street meetings held by the Chorus in Market Square, Preston. All refer to a demonstration of the history and customs of the American Red Indians given by Elders Alvin B. Keddington and David C. Thomas.

Members of the Chorus held impressive services with President Joseph J. Cannon on the banks of the River Ribble, where the first baptisms took place 99 years ago, Monday, August 31.

Hull—Under the direction of Sister Amelia Ransom, a supper, followed by a social, was given by Hull Branch Relief Society Monday, August 31. The Y. W. M. I. A. opened the season with a banquet Wednesday, September 2. Sister Helen Bryant, president, was in charge.

Irish—Belfast Branch Sunday School held its annual children's outing Saturday, August 29, at Helen's Bay. Brother William Belshaw was in charge.

Bristol—Relief Society members and friends of Bristol Branch held an outing at Severn Beach recently under the direction of Sister Gladys Millard, president.

Sheffield—Members of the Doncaster Branch presidency, Elder Alva D. Greene, president, Elder Alton Merrill, first counsellor, and Brother Frank Smith, clerk, entertained branch members and friends at a social in the branch hall Wednesday, September 2.

Nottingham—President Joseph F. Merrill and Sister Emily T. Merrill were speakers at the sacrament services in Hucknall Branch hall Sunday, August 30. Sister Merrill spoke on the benefits derived from learning and singing Latter-day Saint hymns. President Merrill's subject was on baptism for the dead.

DEATHS

REARDON—Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, September 1, in Hucknall Cemetery Chapel for Dennis Michael Reardon, 5, who was drowned in a colliery reservoir Saturday, August 29. Dennis had been a member of Hucknall Branch Sunday School for three years. He

was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Reardon. The services were conducted by Brother Charles W. Orton. District President Samuel Pears was speaker and dedicated the grave. Memorial services were held in Hucknall Branch Chapel Sunday, September 6.

CONTENTS

"And the Eyes of the Blind Shall See"	594	The Story Of The Origin Of The World's Strangest Book ...	602
Scouting in the Mormon Church	597	News of the Church in the World	604
A National Funeral in the Tabernacle	599	A Letter on the Book of Mormon	605
Editorial:		Of Current Interest	606
A Significant Analogy ...	600	Bristol District Conference ...	606
Birmingham District Conference Notice	601	From the Mission Field... ..	607

PUBLISHER: JOSEPH J. CANNON, 5 GORDON SQUARE, LONDON, W. C. 1

EDITOR: JOSEPH F. MERRILL, 5 GORDON SQUARE, LONDON, W.C. 1

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: WENDELL J. ASHTON, 5 GORDON SQUARE, LONDON, W.C. 1

The Millennium Star is published weekly by the British Mission of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Subscription price: 1s. 8d. for three months; 3s. 4d. for six months, and 6s. 6d. per year.